

MILWAUKEE, WI – Congresswoman Gwen Moore and Dr. Val Klump, director of University of Wisconsin Milwaukee's Great Lakes Initiative, today hosted Riverside and Hamilton High School students for an Earth Day event to discuss how the Great Lakes can create new green jobs and how citizens of Milwaukee and the state of Wisconsin can protect the Great Lakes.

"Lake Michigan is a tremendous natural and economic resource for our community and can be an even greater resource for innovative research," said Rep. Moore. "Each and every person who lives in the Great Lakes region benefits from the Lakes and each and everyone one of us has a responsibility to protect them."

The event, entitled "Surface freshwater is the new oil!" to emphasize the growing value worldwide of this natural resource, allowed students an opportunity to hear from experts in the field of water science about the emerging green economy as well as participate in a guided tour by water science and research staff. In addition, students were encouraged to take an active role in protecting the enormous resource that is Lake Michigan and the environment.

"Earth Day is about awareness and appreciation for our environment. As citizens of the planet we have a responsibility and duty to be good stewards of the environment," said Congresswoman Moore. "Whether it is through conservation, waste reduction or awareness we all have a role to play when it comes to protecting and preserving our environment." Earth Day, first established in 1970, is recognized simultaneously by 141 nations and half a billion people around the world each year.

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